

per barrel, which at the time was nearly a 50 percent price reduction.

We must take action on this today, because the future energy outlook is grim. Consistently high oil prices have a devastating effect on Americans simply trying to heat and cool their homes, on small businesses just trying to keep up with the cost of doing business, and on the overall economy as more and more disposable income from people and business is bundled off to foreign countries to pay for oil. Future predictions are so dire that the October 2004 Short-term Energy Outlook published by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) at the Department of Energy is predicting that in 2005, high world oil prices will begin to slow the pace of world economic growth and that high current and projected crude oil costs suggest that large reductions in average gasoline prices are unlikely anytime soon.

The United States economy should not be held hostage to foreign oil interests. The effect of using the SPR during the early 1990s was clear. I urge my colleagues to join me to ensure that the President has every tool available at his disposal to fight rising oil prices that impact our economy and provide relief to the millions of Americans and small businesses affected by skyrocketing oil prices.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to the Queen of Peace Catholic Church as this organization celebrates fifty years of service.

The Queen of Peace Parish was established in 1954 and has served the people of Lake County since its dedication on November 29, 1954. The parish includes the city of Clearlake and the communities of Lower Lake and Clearlake Oaks. In 1995 the community of Lucerne became part of the parish.

The parish has committed itself to serving members of the community and has established several organizations that provide charitable works for the City of Clearlake and Lake County. The contributions from parishioners and revenue from the Thrift Store in Lower Lake have provided emergency assistance, food and shelter to the needy.

Father Louis has served as pastor of the Queen of Peace Church since 1997 and has provided dedicated leadership to the parish community.

Mr. Speaker, the Queen of Peace Catholic Church represents the commitment of promoting a strong community. Quite simply, the Queen of Peace Catholic Church has been a legacy to Lake County; it is most appropriate that we honor the fifty years of service of the Queen of Peace Catholic Church.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE ROBIN KROOGMAN

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and fond memories that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of an outstanding member of the New Haven, Connecticut, The Honorable Robin Kroogman. Robin's life was cut tragically short when she lost her battle with cancer in late October of this year. She was a dear friend and I, along with many in the New Haven community, will always remember her for her kind heart and endless generosity.

A member of New Haven's Board of Alderman for sixteen years, Robin was well-known for her tireless advocacy. As a local legislator she fought diligently for the Fair Haven neighborhood and its residents, bringing the community through some of its most challenging times. She was responsible for the creation of the Board's Public Safety Committee which she also chaired. During her tenure, she introduced legislation and resolutions dealing with a variety of issues from community development to environmental justice. She was a true leader who also acted as a mentor for newly elected legislators even after she left the Board in 2003.

For thirty years Robin served as a fund-raiser, organizer, and adviser to candidates for municipal, state, and federal offices. Many of those who serve in elected office today representing New Haven benefitted from her guidance and counsel. Robin was always there to lend a helping hand. She was also known for her advocacy of animal rights, recognized by organizations like the Friends of the New Haven Animal Shelter for her good work. Robin made a difference in everything that she did—touching the lives of many. She left an indelible mark on our community which will be remembered and cherished.

Advocate, leader, mentor, and friend, Robin exemplified all that a public servant should be. I was indeed honored to have called her my friend. Though saddened beyond words by her passing, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to Robin Kroogman whose indomitable spirit has left a legacy which will continue to inspire all those who knew her.

CONGRATULATING BOB MANGANIello ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to my good friend Robert Manganiello upon his retirement as publisher of the Citizens' Voice newspaper in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Bob is a veteran in the newspaper business. He became publisher of the Voice in 1997 after being its general manager for 12 years. In that capacity, Bob assisted the staff in several transitions, guiding the staff through significant reorganization and growth.

Bob began a 45-year newspaper career at The Sunday Dispatch in Pittston, and later worked at the Scrantonian/Tribune in Scranton and the Wilkes-Barre Publishing Company. Bob came to the Citizens' Voice and worked in the editorial department. He then took the position of marketing director.

Although Bob has retired, he agreed to stay on with the newspaper in an advisory position until Spring of 2005.

Bob and his wife Mary Claire live in Plains Township and have one daughter, Carolyn Calabrese, and a grandson named Christopher.

Bob has always served the community through civic and volunteer organizations. He is a member of the board of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Diamond City Partnership, Penn State/Wilkes-Barre Advisory Board, St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen and Greater Pittston Area Chamber of Commerce. Bob serves on the Membership Services Committee of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association. He is on the executive board of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Bob Manganiello on a long and fruitful career. It is a privilege to know a man who is so dedicated to the community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS AND FARM ENERGY EMERGENCY RELIEF ACT OF 2004

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker I rise today to introduce the Small Business and Farm Energy Emergency Relief Act of 2004.

According to the October 2004 Short-Term Energy Outlook published by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) at the Department of Energy, residential heating expenditures are projected to increase for all fuel types compared to year-ago levels and are even likely to generate higher expenditures even in regions where demand for fuel is expected to fall. The average residential natural gas prices are expected to be 11 percent higher than they were last winter, and household expenditures are expected to be 15 percent higher. Heating oil prices are expected to average 29 percent higher compared with last winter and household expenditures are expected to be 28 percent higher. Propane prices are expected to average 17 percent above last winter, with 22 percent higher expenditures for propane-heated households.

The high and rising costs of oil, natural gas, and propane, and other petroleum distillates, can have a significant economic impact on small businesses, farms, and distributors, as well as a larger overall negative impact on the economy. In fact, the future energy outlook is so grim that EIA is predicting that next year high world oil prices will begin to slow the pace of world economic growth.

We must take action today to ensure relief to America's farms and small businesses before the worst of winter and the coming energy crisis is upon us. That is why I am proposing an expansion of the Economic Injury Disaster